

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1-20 to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium for discriminating the kind thereof, comprising the steps of:

generating image information containing information corresponding to each of plural pixels included in a specific area on the surface of a recording medium as image information indicating the surface condition of said the recording medium;

obtaining a first parameter regarding the surface roughness of said the recording medium from said the image information;

obtaining a second parameter regarding the surface configuration of said the recording medium from said the image information; and

discriminating the kind of said the recording medium on the basis of said the first parameter and said the second parameter.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein said the image information contains the brightness information of each of said the plural pixels, and said the first parameter is obtainable from said the brightness information, and relates to the magnitude of unevenness on the surface of said the recording medium.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein said the image information contains the brightness information of each of said the plural pixels, and said the second parameter is obtainable corresponding to the changes in said the brightness information along the arrangement of said the plural continuous pixels, and relates to the cycle of unevenness on the surface of said the recording medium.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium for discriminating the kind thereof, comprising the steps of:

generating image information composed by plural pixels corresponding to a specific area on the surface of a recording medium, and containing the brightness information corresponding to each of said the plural pixels as image information indicating the a surface condition of said the recording medium;

obtaining a first parameter by statistical process in accordance with said the brightness information;

obtaining a second parameter regarding changes in said the brightness information along the an arrangement of said the plural continuous pixels; and

discriminating the kind of said the recording medium on the basis of said the first parameter and said the second parameter.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 4, wherein said the first parameter is either one of the a brightness difference between the maximum value and the minimum value of said the brightness information, the mean value of said the brightness information, and the brightness at the peak of a histogram prepared from said the plural pixels.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 5, wherein said the mean value of the brightness information is either the arithmetic mean value of the maximum value and the minimum value of said the brightness information or the arithmetic mean value of the respective brightness information of said the plural pixels.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 4, wherein said the second parameter is obtainable on the basis of the binary data prepared by binarizing said the image information, being either one of the number of inversions of the values of adjacent pixels in said the binary data, the run-length coded amount at the time of allocating codes to said the binary data in accordance with the run-length coding, and the number of isolated pixels discriminated as isolated pixels on the basis of the values of adjacent pixels on both sides in accordance with said the binary data.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 7, wherein a threshold value used for ~~said the~~ binarizing process is either the mean value of ~~said the~~ brightness information or the brightness at the peak of ~~the a~~ histogram prepared from ~~said the~~ plural pixels.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 4, wherein ~~said the~~ second parameter is ~~the a~~ number of changes of plus/minus signs of adjacent pixels.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 4, wherein ~~said the~~ discriminating process discriminates the kind of ~~said the~~ recording medium by use of a table in which ~~said the~~ first and second parameters and the kind of ~~said the~~ recording medium are correlated.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 4, wherein ~~said the~~ discriminating process discriminates the kind of ~~said the~~ recording medium on the basis of plural threshold values corresponding to ~~said the~~ first parameter and ~~said the~~ second parameter, respectively.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 11, wherein ~~said~~ the plural threshold values are values determined on the basis of the distributions ~~said~~ the first parameter and ~~said~~ the second parameter can exhibit per kind of ~~said~~ the recording medium.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 4, wherein a plain sheet and a coated sheet are discriminated on the basis of ~~said~~ the first parameter and ~~said~~ the second parameter.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 13, the threshold value of ~~said~~ the second parameter for discriminating a glossy film and a glossy sheet is ~~larger~~ greater than the threshold value of ~~said~~ the second parameter for ~~discriminated~~ discriminating the glossy sheet and ~~said~~ the coated sheet.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 4, wherein ~~said~~ the step of generating the image information obtains ~~said~~ the image information by picking up an image regarding a specific area on ~~said~~ the recording medium.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 4, wherein ~~said~~ the image information is either one-dimensional image information or two-dimensional image information.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 16, wherein if ~~said~~ the image information generated is a two-dimensional image information, said step of generating the image information converts it into one-dimensional image information.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium for discriminating the kind thereof, comprising the steps of:
generating the image information composed by plural pixels corresponding to a specific area on the surface of a recording medium as image information indicating ~~the~~ a surface condition of ~~said~~ the recording medium;
obtaining as a parameter the number of pixels at peak brightness in ~~the~~ a histogram prepared by ~~said~~ the plural pixels; and
discriminating the kind of recording medium on the basis of ~~said~~ the parameter.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating recording medium according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of obtaining a second parameter related to the magnitude

of the unevenness on the surface of said the recording medium from the brightness information of each of said the plural pixels, wherein said the discriminating step discriminates the kind of recording medium on the basis of said the parameter and the second parameter related to the magnitude of the unevenness of the surface of said the recording medium.

20. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording on a recording medium conveyed by conveying means in accordance with recording data, comprising:

image information-generating means for generating image information composed by plural pixels corresponding to a specific area on the surface of the recording medium, and containing the brightness information of each of said the plural pixels as the image information indicating the a surface condition of said the recording medium conveyed by said the conveying means; and

discriminating means for discriminating the kind of said the recording medium in accordance with a first parameter obtainable by statistical process on the basis of said the brightness information, and a second parameter obtainable with respect to the changes in said the brightness information along the an arrangement of said the plural continuous pixels.